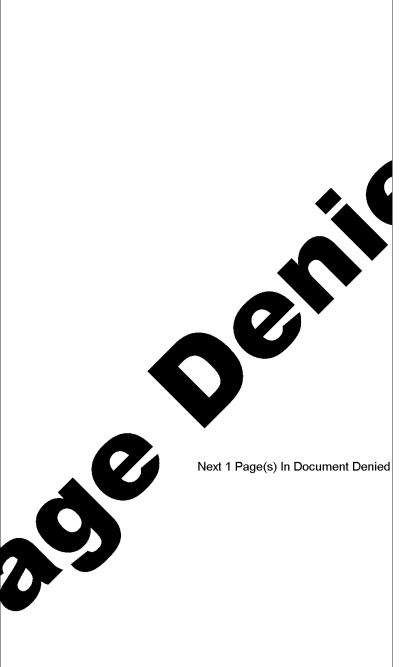
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## THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

## WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



19 JUL 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Selected Net Assessments

On June 24 Bob Gates and I had a discussion about continuing the process for selected net assessments prepared jointly by my office of Net Assessment and members of the Intelligence Community. This process was started by Cap Weinberger and Bill Casey in 1981 and produced a joint net assessment of the strategic nuclear balance in 1983, as well as an update of that balance assessment in 1985.

I told Bob that I felt this had been a useful process for periodically providing me and the DCI with a net assessment in a few selected, high priority areas. I proposed we start to work on an update of the strategic nuclear assessment with Defense taking the lead. Later on we can see what other areas we might want to assess. Bob indicated that he agreed with continuing this arrangement and I wanted to let you know that my Director of Net Assessment will be getting in touch with your people to get this underway.

This process does not change in any way the arrangement we have for joint production of Interagency Net Assessments for the Congress, your provision of inputs to the Joint Staff's net assessments, nor any of the procedures associated with the Net Assessment Coordinating Committee.

Initially these selected net assessments can have limited distribution, and if you and I decide that wider distribution, including the Congress, is desirable, they would be reviewed by the Net Assessment Coordinating Committee in accord with the agreements that have been arrived at for such cases.

Mand Carle

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